

What is claimed is :

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- 1 1. A remote control apparatus comprising:  
2 a user interface to enable a user to initiate retrieval of an electronic document from a  
3 data network, the apparatus being programmable with respect to a URL of the document.
  - 1 2. The remote control apparatus of claim 1 wherein the user interface comprises a  
2 button for initiating the retrieval.
  - 1 3. The remote control apparatus of claim 1 wherein the programming is verifiable by a  
2 feedback mechanism comprising at least one of the following modalities: audio, visual,  
3 tactile.
  - 1 4. A data processing system for access to a data network, the system comprising:  
2 a piece of equipment with network access;  
3 a remote control apparatus to initiate accessing a document on the network with a  
4 pre-determined URL upon user-actuation, via the piece of equipment, wherein the piece of  
5 equipment stores the pre-determined URL, and wherein the piece of equipment is  
6 programmable with regard to the pre-determined URL.
  - 1 5. The system of claim 4 wherein the pre-determined URL is programmed by at least  
2 one of the following: user-interaction with the STB, third-party interaction with the STB.
  - 1 6. The system of claim 5 wherein the third-party interaction is based on a user-profile.
  - 1 7. Software for being installed onto at least a remote control apparatus or a piece of a  
2 data network access equipment, wherein the software renders the apparatus operative to  
3 select at least one URL with a shortcut key, and wherein the URL is programmable.
  - 1 8. A service supplied in a client-server configuration, wherein:  
the server provides user-access to a list of information items; and  
the client is enabled to interact with the server and make selections, the selections  
being programmable on at least one button of a client interface, wherein the client interface  
comprises:  
network access to the server; and

at least one button programmable to initiate accessing a document on the network with a pre-determined URL upon user-actuation, via the server, wherein the server stores the pre-determined URL.

9. A remote control device having access to a data network, the remote control having a programmable user-interface to command a piece of equipment to retrieve a document on the data network via a URL.

10. A piece of equipment linked to a data network, the piece of equipment programmable to retrieve a document from the data network via a URL upon receipt of a command from a remote control device having a user-interface.

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